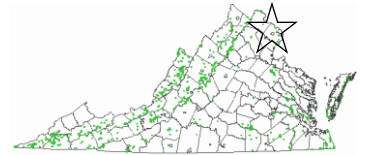




MOUNT VERNON GROUP VIRGINIA CHAPTER

THE CITIES OF ALEXANDRIA & FALLS CHURCH, ARLINGTON COUNTY, AND
EASTERN FAIRFAX & PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES



Sierra Club-Mount Vernon Group Statement on the Proposed Policy Plan Amendment 2018-CW-2CP

The Sierra Club-Mount Vernon Group appreciates the opportunity to support the proposed amendment to the Public Facilities element of the Policy Plan volume of the Comprehensive Plan to apply natural landscaping to Fairfax County projects. There are several reasons to support this plan amendment.

- Natural landscaping provides important ecological services, including rainwater retention, erosion and sediment control, and habitat creation.
- Natural landscaping creates a healthier environment by, among other things, improving air quality, reducing heat island effects and reducing noise pollution from mowers, edgers and other power equipment.
- Natural landscaping is economical. While any landscaping requires some maintenance, use of native plants reduces energy consumption and some types of frequent maintenance, such as mowing, watering and planting of annuals.
- Natural landscaping is already widely used by Fairfax County. The proposal before the Planning Commission would formalize a practice that has been common practice for more than ten years.

Appendix 2 of the staff report lists more than eleven pages of existing projects that have incorporated elements of natural landscaping. Fairfax County should take this opportunity to formalize its widespread practice of utilizing natural plants where possible on all land controlled by the County.

Thank you for this chance to support the staff recommendation.